

ROWLAND C. HARMON.

JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8185.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, having considered the evidence relating to the bill (H. R. 8185) granting a pension to Rowland C. Harmon, report thereon as follows:

This man served from July 29, 1862, to June 5, 1865, when he was honorably discharged from Company B, Eighth New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery, as a sergeant. He filed and established a claim for gunshot wound of right thigh, and was pensioned therefor under the general law until January 4, 1892, when he commenced to draw pension under act of June 27, 1890, and is now pensioned thereunder at \$12 per month. He has alleged that ever since discharge he has suffered from rheumatism and disease of eyes he thought growing out of his wound, the affection of eyes from shock to nervous system; but at any rate both due to his service. He has not been able to furnish evidence of the existence of either in service, and the medical branch of the Pension Office declines to accept either as due to the wound.

Claimant and his wife, both credible persons, swear that his left eye was affected when he returned from the service and that the right eye soon became affected through sympathy, and that both eyes have been affected ever since.

There is lay evidence of the existence of rheumatism at discharge and since. There is medical evidence of treatment for disease of eyes from 1871. The maker of this report treated him therefor from 1880 to 1886, and his affidavit to that effect is among the papers in the claim. Claimant is now suffering from disease of rectum and severe rheumatism, the sight of his left eye is entirely gone, and he has only one-twentieth of normal vision in right eye.

His general health is poor, his voice broken, and he is unable to do any labor. His habits have always been good. Your committee consider the case fairly made out as to rheumatism and disease of eyes, and recommend the passage of the bill after being amended as follows:

In line six strike out "of Allegan, Mich.," and after the word "month," in line eight, add "in lieu of that which he is now receiving."

Amend title so as to read: "A bill to increase the pension of Rowland C. Harmon."